

## **Islington U3A – Concert Visits Group**

Here is a list of the previous concerts we've been to from 2016 to 2017:

- A delightful lunchtime programme of Schumann and Mendelssohn from the highly talented Amatis Piano Trio.- Highly unusual Christmas music, both ancient and modern, superbly sung by the Choir of Merton College Oxford in Temple Church.
- An excellent performance of two Mozart Violin Concertos from Rachel Podger and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.
- An hour and a half of musical alchemy from the Vijay Iyer Sextet, who played free, yet very structured, jazz from their new release on ECM.- A BBC Radio 3 lunchtime concert of piano music by Schumann, Smetana and Prokofiev by Ashley Wass, standing in at very short notice for an indisposed Ingrid Fliter.
- A wonderfully atmospheric performance of Shostakovich's setting of Ten Poems by Revolutionary Poets from the Latvian Radio Choir as part of the 2017 Proms season.
- St Paul's Cathedral resounding to organ music; JS Bach, Handel, Richard Strauss, Poulenc and the Adagio attributed to Albinoni.
- Students on the opera course at the Royal Academy of Music entering fully into the spirit of Bertold Brecht and Kurt Weill's Threepenny Opera.
- Guitar supremo Martin Taylor and his vocalist daughter-in-law Alison Burns paying tribute to Ella Fitzgerald in her centenary year.
- Tenebrae directed by Nigel Short in a spine-tingling performance of Fauré's Requiem at St John's, Smith Square.
- A very finely crafted performance of Stravinsky's Firebird from The Philharmonia Orchestra conducted by Pablo Heras-Cassado, preceded by de Falla's Nights in the Gardens of Spain (soloist Javier Perianes) and Ravel's Alborada del gracioso.
- Highly accomplished pianist Lara Melda, the BBC's 2010 Young Musician of the Year, in her Wigmore Hall debut performing Nocturnes, Mazurkas and Scherzo No 1 by Chopin.
- The Academy Symphony Orchestra conducted by Christopher Warren-Green in a wonderfully varied programme of works by the Strauss dynasty including arias sung by outstanding young Russian soprano Ilona Revolskaya.
- Sopranos Carolyn Sampson and newcomer Rowan Pierce duetting in Monteverdi interspersed with sonatas by Dario Castello performed with their usual gusto by the Academy of Ancient Music directed by Richard Egarr.
- A scintillating performance of Beethoven's Violin Concerto by Anne-Sophie Mutter at the Royal Festival Hall conducted by Robin Ticciati, with the London

Philharmonic Orchestra showing us what they can do in Dvorak's perennially popular Ninth Symphony, 'From the New World'.

- Irish tenor Robin Tritschler in a programme of songs by Mozart and Tchaikovsky devised by pianist Iain Burnside and recorded for broadcast by BBC Radio 3.
- Young Italian pianist Costanza Principe in a programme of Beethoven, Schubert and Rachmaninov in the tranquil surroundings of St James's Piccadilly.
- Multiple award-winning guitarist Jim Mullen at King's Place joined by singer Zoe Francis and bassist Mike Hutton in a thoroughly enjoyable programme of jazz standards.
- Gil Shaham in an electrifying performance of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with Pablo Heras-Casado conducting The Philharmonia, who also gave us Shostakovich and Prokofiev in this all-Russian programme.
- A highly unusual contribution to Shakespeare 400 from ExCathedra and actor Samuel West at London's newest concert hall, Milton Court.
- A concert celebrating the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II which featured a cornucopia of short and very familiar works by Vivaldi, Handel, Purcell, Arne and Pachelbel.
- Pergolesi's Stabat Mater very well sung by the Rector of St James's Piccadilly and the Vicar Choral at St Paul's Cathedral.
- A late change of artists meant we went to hear an excellent recital by Tamsin Waley-Cohen and Huw Watkins at a packed Wigmore Hall.
- The London Symphony Orchestra's string sections performing Mendelssohn's tuneful Octet at St Luke's in Old Street.
- The Academy of Ancient Music directed by Richard Egarr in a splendid performance of JS Bach's Christmas Oratorio.
- The very accomplished young students of the Royal Academy of Music conducted by Music Director of Glyndebourne Festival and Principal Conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Robin Ticciati.
- BBC Young Musician 2012 winner, cellist Laura van der Heijden performing Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cadogan Hall.
- Young orchestral and choral students from the Guildhall School of Music blowing the roof off Barbican Hall in a programme of Elgar and Prokofiev.
- Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey, James O'Donnell, performing on the newly-restored organ at Christ Church, Spitalfields.
- The final concert of this year's Handel Festival in the magnificent surroundings of St George's, Hanover Square.

- The world-renowned Nash Ensemble in a BBC Radio 3 lunchtime concert at LSO St Luke's.
- The Symphonic Brass and Big Band of the Royal Academy of Music performing the music of jazz legend Dave Holland.
- Brilliant British pianist Paul Lewis performing a solo piano recital at the Royal Festival Hall.
- A Sunday morning Coffee Concert at Wigmore Hall, with the St Lawrence String Quartet.
- A concert at London's newest concert hall, Milton Court, featuring the wonderful Barbican Young Orchestra.
- Talented students from the Guildhall School of Music taking part in the City of London Festival at St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe.